

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00272 101555Z
ACTION SCS-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5787

UNCLAS LAGOS 0272

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: DCES (BRIDEAU, JOSEPH RAYMOND)
SUBJECT: DEATH OF JOSEPH RAYMOND BRIDEAU

REF: STATE 004802

1. REPORT PROVIDED BY LOCAL SEUCO REPRESENTATIVE KERNER BARRAS DISCOVERED CIRCUMSTANCES AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE, "ON FIRST OF JANUARY 1978 MR. JOE BRIDEAU LEFT THE BARGE OU-105 AT ABOUT 10:00 A.M. IN THE MORNING TO SPEND SOME TIME AT OPOBO VILLAGE. HE RETURNED BACK TO THE BARGE KOU-105 AT ABOUT 4:00 P.M. HE HAD BEEN DRINKING AND HE HAD HIS DINNER. THEN AT ABOUT 6:30 P.M. HE LEFT THE BARGE A SECOND TIME IN A FLY BOAT AND WAS TOLD THAT THE FLY BOAT WILL PICK HIM FROM OPOBO TO THE BARGE OU-105 AT 7:30 P.M.

THE FLY BOAT WAS SENT TO OPOBO TO PICK MR. JOE BRIDEAU BACK TO THE BARGE. THE BOYS SENT ON THE FLY BOAT TO OPOBO, RETURNED AT ABOUT 9:30 P.M. AND REPORTED TO MR. JOHN GAUSLIN THAT THEY COULD NOT FIND MR. JOE BRIDEAU. THEY WERE TOLD TO GO BACK A SECOND TRIP AND TRY TO FIND MR. JOE BRIDEAU. AT ABOUT 1:00 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MORNING WHICH WAS MONDAY THE SECOND OF JANUARY 1978 THE DRIVER OF THE FLY BOAT CAME TO REPORT TO MR. JOHN GAUSLIN THAT THEY HAVE AFOUND MR. JOE BRIDEAU IN THE VILLAGE AND HE WAS VERY DRUNK AND HE WAS IN THE FLY BOAT. MR. JOHN GAUSLIN GOO UP TO MAKE SURE HE WAS PUT IN HIS ROOM. THE CAPTAIN OF THE BARGE WAS INFORMED THAT MR. JOE BRIDEAU WAS BACK ON THE BARGE OU-105. HE WAS CARRIED TO HIS BED.

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HE LOOKED JUST LIKE SOME ONE WHO HAD TAKEN TOO MUCH OF DRINK. HE DID NOT LOOK AS IF HE WAS SICK OR ILL. HE WAS LEFT TO SLEEP IT OFF. AT 9:00 A.M. I JOHN GAUSLIN WENT INTO HIS ROOM WHICH HE SHARED WITH MR. JERALD ROBISON WHO WAS LAYING IN HIS BED I HAD A LOOK AT HIS FACE. IT LOOKED A BIT GREY. I CHECKED HIS PULSE WHICH I COULD NOT FIND I ALSO CHECK FOR HEART BEAT WHICH AGAIN

COULD NOT BE FOUND. HIS BODY WAS WARM, MR. J. ROBISION GOT UP AND THE CAPTAIN WAS INFORMED. HE CAME IN AND HAD THE SAME OBSERVATION. HE CHECKED HIS PULSE AND HEART BEAT THERE WAS NOTHING.

THE DREDGE KITTY BEAN WAS INFORMED TO SEND FOR A DOCTOR AND HELICOPTER FROM PORT-HARCOURT. AT ABOUT 9:15 A.M. THE POLICE AT OPOBO WAS INFORMED AND THEY ARRIVED AT THE BARGE OU-105. AT ABOUT 3:30 P.M. THE DOCTOR ARRIVED AND CHECKED MR. JOE BRIDEAU AND FOUND HIM DEAD. HE WAS PUT ON A STRETCHER AND SENT BY BOAT TO PORT-HARCOUR.

SIGN BY 1 J.H. LANGLOS CAPT

2 JOHN GAUSLIN FOREMAN

3 J.D. ROBISION OPTR.GD.1
UNQUOTE".

2. ON JANUARY 2, 1978, D4. G.E. TAHAM OF IMO HOSPITAL PROVIDED FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE "M.J. BRIDEAU IS FOUND DEAD ON HIS BED BY CARDIAC ARREST " UNQUOTE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS STATEMENT WAS NOT INCLUDED WITH THOSE SENT TO PORT HARCOURT SINCE OFFICIAL DEATH CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRY OF PORT HARCOURT ON JANUARY 4 SHOWS CAUSE UNKNOWN.

3. ALL DAY EFFORTS TO REACH SEDCO REPRESENTATIVE UNSUCCESSFUL-
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WILL ADVISE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
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